



# Town of Loxahatchee Groves Newsletter

Happy Holidays and Season's Greetings

## Greetings from Mayor Dave Browning



Mayor Dave Browning

## Town Council Members



Vice Mayor  
Marge Herzog



Councilman  
Dr. Bill Louda



Councilman  
Dennis Lipp



Councilman  
Dave Autrey

Season's Greetings from your Mayor!

In this time of celebrating all the holidays, we come to realize how important our family, friends, and community are to us. Hopefully, we will keep our focus on what is truly important.

After a long "fight", thankfully, E Rd/140<sup>th</sup> Ave has been permanently removed from the county's Thoroughfare Plan which removes any danger of our community being dissected.

These are tough financial times and your council is committed to keeping costs as low as possible and staying well within our budget.

I fully expect that the coming months will bring a new spirit of cooperation between the LGWCD and the Council allowing us to gain approval for our Comprehensive Plan. We are working toward satisfying any concerns that DCA has specified.

As we go into the new year, we will appreciate your continued interest and involvement in keeping our unique community the best that it can be.

Merry Christmas & Happy Hanukkah!

Dave

In an effort to slow drivers down, decrease the amount of dust caused by speeders and to provide an overall safer community the Town Council has authorized more money to be spent for additional PBSO speed patrol. It is important to educate all drivers about the rules and safety of driving on rural roads. The rules must be enforced which is why you are seeing additional speed patrol on a monthly basis. Not only does the speed patrol provide for safer roads for our children but it also greatly reduces the amount of dust. When the speed limit of 30 mph is enforced and followed in our Town, there is very little dust that comes off of our dirt roads. So, when you see these officers on the road protecting our community, stop and thank them for doing a great job.

Drivers passing through rural areas need to be alert and move slowly. They need enough time to react safely to the occasional slowly moving tractor, horseback rider or group of school children walking from the school bus stop. Please follow the speed limit, drive with caution and SLOW DOWN!!!



## Road Information

These are the facts relating to the roads:

Florida law gives the Town the authority to maintain its public roads, as well as to regulate the construction and installation of traffic control devices on those roads. LGWCD does have the right to maintain some roads within the District's boundaries, but its authority is limited.

In short, the responsibility for road maintenance inside Loxahatchee Groves is shared. The overlap causes confusion and there must be cooperative planning between the Town and LGWCD. The Town is developing a comprehensive Master Road, Equestrian and Greenway Trail Plan while the District has been utilizing a piecemeal road petition process. The two approaches must be combined for the roadway planning efforts to succeed.



## E-Road 140th Thoroughfare



It's official! The Florida Department of Community Affairs and Palm Beach County Staff confirmed that the E-Road-140th Thoroughfare has been removed from the P.B.C. T.I.M. as of Friday, November 6, 2008, when the time period for filing a petition or objection expired. This means the wait is finally over. The incorporated Town of Loxahatchee Groves, the Town Council and direction from our lobbyist all contributed to the successful removal of this thoroughfare. Thanks to this persistent and supportive community for all of their efforts.

## 2008 Property Tax Bill Explanation

2008 PROPOSED AND/OR ADOPTED NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS				
LEVYING AUTHORITY		TELEPHONE NUMBER	RATE	ASSESSED AMOUNT
LOXAHATCHEE GROVES WATER CONT. MAINT		(561)793-0884	137.95	689.75
SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY		(561)697-2700	156.00	156.00
SOLID WASTE - LOXAHATCHEE		(561)793-2418	372.73	372.73

**Loxahatchee Groves Water Cont. Maint:** Every landowner in the Town pays a per acre assessment to the Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District. The rate you pay is \$137.95 per acre and it is for you to receive drainage and road maintenance services from the LGWCD.

**Solid Waste Authority:** Every homeowner in Palm Beach County pays a DISPOSAL fee to the Solid Waste Authority. No matter where you live, everyone pays this. It was \$136.00 in 2007 and PBC raised it to \$156.00 in 2008.

**Solid Waste—Loxahatchee:** Every resident in our Town pays this for garbage, recycling and vegetative pick up. The rate is \$372.73 per unit on your property. If you have more than 1 unit on your property, then you will pay \$372.73 for EACH unit. The company that provides this service is Waste Pro. The 5 year contract with ONYX expired and Waste Pro had the lowest bid which is why your WASTE HAULING FEE only went up by \$50.00 (most of the other bids were between 2 and 3 times the price that was offered by Waste Pro.)

- 2006:** The tax bill showed a single SWA line item that included the DISPOSAL FEE & WASTE HAULING FEE (this is prior to incorporation)
- 2007:** The tax bill showed a single SWA line item that only included the DISPOSAL FEE. The Town billed everyone separately for the WASTE HAULING FEE
- 2008:** The tax bill is showing a single SWA line item for the DISPOSAL FEE (\$156.00) Now there is a line for LOXAHATCHEE which is for the WASTE HAULING FEE that you have always been paying. The price of the WASTE HAULING FEE only went up \$50.00 compared to what the Town was paying over 5 years ago. The rate that the Town is paying for WASTE HAULING is almost \$50.00 less than what unincorporated Palm Beach County landowners are paying for 2008. This is how your tax bill will be for now on with these two separate line items.

A question that is being asked is, "If the Town kept the same millage as last year then why did my property tax bill go up!". The answer is because there are over 25 other county taxes that make up your property tax bill that that Town does not control. Many of these other county taxes have increased this year which would make your overall tax bill higher. An important point to remember is The Town now has control over the revenues that are brought back into our community; for the current fiscal year, 2008-2009; the Town will bring over \$1.1 million in revenue. Although you are now paying an additional tax to the Town for your property, the net gain to the Town, after you take out the Loxahatchee Groves property taxes, is over \$710,000. This net gain gives us the finances to run this municipality and provide the needed services to the community.

## Code Enforcement



The Town, upon incorporation, inherited and then adopted Palm Beach Counties Code of Ordinances. These ordinances are primarily for urban communities. As we all know Loxahatchee Groves is not an urban community and its safe to say "most of us like it that way". You might ask why did we do that and not develop our own? Good question. Before we develop our own we need to complete the Comprehensive Plan, so that, when we develop our Land Development Regulations and Code of Ordinances they conform to our Comprehensive Plan.

Code Enforcement Services for the Town is by COMPLAINT BASIS only. The Town does not have proactive code enforcement officers (patrolling) in the Town. Code complaints are only initiated when a resident files a formal complaint with the Town Clerks office. In addition the Town Council has placed a prohibition on anonymous code complaints indefinitely. A person filing a complaint must give their name and contact information.

The Town's goal is to have our Land Development Regulations and Code of Ordinances completed by the end of 2009.

## Solid Waste Services

WASTE PRO is the new waste hauling provider (starting 10/1/08)  
411 Tallpines Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33413  
**Customer Service Phone #: 561-688-8912**

**Residential Waste Pick-up:** Wednesdays & Saturdays  
**Residential Vegetative Waste Pick-up:** Wednesdays  
*(2 cubic yards per pick up)*  
**Residential Recycling Pick-up:** Saturdays (must be out by 6am)  
**Residential Bulk Items:** Wednesdays & Saturdays  
*(Furniture, appliances, pianos, swing sets, water heaters, air conditioners, and other like household items. There is no weight limitation on any single bulk item.)*  
**Residential Construction and Demolition:** Wednesdays and Saturdays  
*(up to 2 cubic yards from minor home improvement)*

**Other Notes:**  
All containers (garbage cans and recycling bins) are to be returned to the point of collection and not thrown into streets, driveways or in front of mail-boxes. When providing back door collection service, containers must be returned to the point of collection and not left on the curb. Routes must always be run from the same starting point.

## Town Meeting Schedule



The Town Council meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. The meetings start at 7:00 pm & are held at the LGWCD. Stay involved and attend these meetings. If you are unable to attend, you can access the meeting minutes and recordings on the Town website at [www.loxahatcheegroves.org](http://www.loxahatcheegroves.org) or call the office at 561-793-2418 to request a copy.

**This is the remaining schedule for 2008:**  
**December:** Tues 12/2 & 12/16

The 2009 meeting schedule is posted on the town website.

## Frequently Asked Questions

In each edition of the newsletter, Town Staff will address commonly asked questions from the residents and landowners.

**Question: Is it true that the residents and landowners of our Town are going to be FORCED to connect to PBC Sewage?**  
**Answer: No.** There is rumor and misinformation out in the community based on a misunderstanding of the Florida Statutes that require **GRAVITY** mains to be connected within one year. The Town is on **FORCE** mains, not gravity mains; therefore there is NO requirement to be connected.

**Question: How much in Local Option Gas Taxes is the Town receiving for 2008-2009?**  
**Answer:** Approximately \$392,000. In the Town's budget for next year, there is a line item called "Public Works". Two items make up the public works budget: \$392,000 of Gas Tax Money that will be spent on public roads in our Town, and \$433,296, the amount of money the Town pays to Waste Pro for waste pick up (revenue neutral).

**Question: How do we get involved in our local government and how do we stay informed?**  
**Answer:** The best way to get involved is to attend the Town Council meetings (please refer to the Town meeting schedule listed above). We recognize that this is not possible for a lot of people for very good reasons. The next best way to get informed is to visit the Town's website at [www.loxahatcheegroves.org](http://www.loxahatcheegroves.org). Under the "meetings" page, you can access all agendas, minutes and recordings of all Town Council meetings and workshops. On the "documents" page you can access all Resolutions, Ordinances and other important and informative Town documents. In addition to these pages there is a lot more information that is provided to the community and is updated on a daily basis. You can also reach the Town Clerk at 561-793-2418 or email the Town Clerk at [clerk@loxahatcheegroves.org](mailto:clerk@loxahatcheegroves.org). You can make a public records request for any item that is found on the website. The most important job of the Town Management's office is get correct and accurate information out to all residents and landowners. Unfortunately, misinformation and rumors are common and can be confusing. For accurate information, please call the Town Clerk's office, email us, or stop by to talk with our staff..

**Question: Who handles the Town's Business Tax Licenses? Who handles the Town's Planning, Zoning and Building?**  
**Answer:** Upon incorporation, the Town entered into an inter-local agreement with Palm Beach County to continue handling all its Planning, Zoning and Building matters as well as Business Tax Licenses. We encourage you to contact Palm Beach County directly at 561-233-5000 for additional information. The only business tax license that is required is the one issued by Palm Beach County; the Town does not issue its own. The Town Council does serve as the Zoning Commission on all development applications that are processed with the county relating to our town.

## Town of Loxahatchee Groves



14579 Southern Blvd  
Suite 2  
Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470

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US POSTAGE  
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WEST PALM BCH FL  
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## Important Phone Numbers

### Town Management Office:

14579 Southern Blvd, Suite 2  
Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470  
Phone: 561-793-2418  
Fax: 561-793-2420  
[clerk@loxahatcheegroves.org](mailto:clerk@loxahatcheegroves.org)  
[www.loxahatcheegroves.org](http://www.loxahatcheegroves.org)

### Office Hours:

Monday-Friday  
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

### All Emergencies:

(Police, Fire, & Rescue): 911

### Poison Control Center:

800-282-3171

### Non-Emergency Fire:

561-616-7000

### Non-Emergency Sheriff:

561-688-3000

### L.G. Water Control District:

561-793-0884

### Waste Pro (trash disposal):

561-688-8912

### American Red Cross:

561-833-7711

### Emergency Management:

561-712-6400

### Florida Power & Light:

561-697-8000

### Bell South (telephone):

561-780-2355

